DAILY NEWS 1/10/72

Sees Kennedy X-Rays, Backs Warren Study

By ROGER WETHERINGTON

Dr. John K. Lattimer, the first person outside the official government circle who has been permitted to examine the color photos taken at the autopsy of President Kennedy, said yesterday that the inspection had convinced him of the accuracy of the Warren Commission's report.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the President was struck down by a single assailant" just as the commission asserted, he said. He added that he had had some reservations before.

Lattimer, a urologist at Columbia University, is an expert on the assassination and has collected letters and other papers that belonged to Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the commission as the President's killer. He examined the 65 photos, negatives and X-rays at the National Archives in Washington on Friday.

The material was put in the archives in 1966 by the President's brother, the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, with the stipulation that only government officials would be permitted to see them for five years. Now that the five years are up, other medical researchers are to be allowed to see the material, provided they get Kennedy family approval.

Lattimer said his application to see the pictures was made three years ago.

The most important thing he learned from the pictures, he said, was that the first bullet had followed a steeper trajectory than popularly supposed, evidence that the President had indeed been shot from above and behind. Lattimer said he agrees that the pictures should be withheld from the public because they are so "awful" and "devastating."

Lattimer conducted a press conference at CBS Studios.